



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northwest Region  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1  
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:  
2003/00750

August 1, 2003

Ms. Therese B. Lamb  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Acting Vice President for Environment, Fish and Wildlife  
905 NE Eleventh Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Programmatic Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the Bonneville Power Administration Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) in the Columbia River Basin

Dear Ms. Lamb:

Enclosed is NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) programmatic biological opinion (Opinion) concluding formal Endangered Species Act consultation on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) in the Columbia River Basin as described in BPA's biological assessment (BA) dated June 9, 2003.

This Opinion considers Snake River fall-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Snake River spring/summer-run chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Lower Columbia River chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Upper Willamette River chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Upper Columbia River spring-run chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Columbia River chum salmon (*O. keta*), Snake River sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), Upper Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Snake River Basin steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Lower Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), Upper Willamette River steelhead (*O. mykiss*), and Middle Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*).

NOAA Fisheries has determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species described above, or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. An Incidental Take Statement provides non-discretionary terms and conditions to minimize the potential for incidental take of listed species.

This document also serves as consultation on essential fish habitat for coho and chinook salmon, groundfish and coastal pelagic species under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and its implementing regulations (50 C.F.R. Part 600).



We appreciate the considerable effort and cooperation provided by Nancy Weintraub, of your staff, in completing this consultation. If you have any questions regarding this Opinion, please contact Nora Berwick, of my staff in the Oregon Habitat Branch at 503.231.6887.

Sincerely,

*for Michael R Crouse*

D. Robert Lohn  
Regional Administrator